

# My REU Experience

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# Research Problem

- Return-oriented programming (ROP) attacks
  - It's all about the attacker...
    - Reproduce pieces of the original (good guy's) code.
    - Creates a Turing complete set of gadgets.
    - Uses gadgets to write attack code.
    - Gets the code into memory.
    - Links the code with return instructions.
  - Defenses exist but at the cost of efficiency.

# Goal of the Research

To find a more efficient (low-overhead) defense, of course!

# The Proposed Defense

- Will monitor instruction execution.
  - If we go to a new page in memory which will create a Turing complete set, we will lock other pages so the Turing complete set will be nonexistent.
  - Otherwise, we are not dealing with a Turing complete set, and execution will continue as normal.
  - When a page is first unlocked, the entry instruction will be checked for credibility.

# What I Did This Summer

- Got to learn about a particular problem (ROP attacks) in the world of cybersecurity.
- More experience programming in low-level languages.
  - MIPS
  - Some exposure to Intel 64.
- Machine encoding
- Disassembly
- Implementation of gadget classes

# Future Plans

- Research at UNA in Spring 2015.
  - Would love to continue doing research in cybersecurity area.
- B.S. in Computer Science in Spring 2015.
- Plan to attend graduate school to get a Ph.D. in Computer Science.
  - Concentration in Computer Security
- Goal is to be a computer science professor.

# Acknowledgments

- Dr. James Jerkins - University of North Alabama, Department of Computer Science
- Dr. Janet Jenkins – University of North Alabama, Department of Computer Science
- Dr. David Koppelman
- Louisiana State University, Center for Computation & Technology
- National Science Foundation



Questions?